

Abstract

An actuating mechanism for rapidly and selectively moving a threaded screw and nut member combination into or out of threaded engagement, particularly for use to pressurize angioplasty balloon catheters, or the like. The mechanism includes a housing and a threaded screw structure slidably displaceable through the housing. A nut member having partial threads is selectively engageable and disengageable with the threaded screw structure. The mechanism includes a carrier member and is designed to be assembled from the rear. The carrier member is preferably configured to be retainably engaged with the housing via a bayonet arrangement, such as a quarter-turn bayonet arrangement, and is configured to provide an audible indication when it is, in fact, properly and fully installed. Preferably, the housing is configured to receive a pressure gauge directly into a threaded bore on the housing. An improved method of assembling an actuating mechanism is also provided.